Enhancement of Royalty to Oil Producing States

396. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the oil producing States of the Union have been asking for an enhancement of royalty to States on oil;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Governments of Assam and Gujarat have been requesting the Central Government to fix the final rate of royalty on crude oil for the block period 1993—96 and to revise the 'on account' rate of royalty on crude oil w.e.f. 1.4.1996.

(c) For the period 1993—96, final crude price is being worked out on the basis of the actual weighted cost of production figures audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General. The final rate of royalty would be notified thereafter and necessary adjustments made against the 'on account' payments already made. A decision in regard to the rate of royalty for the post 31.3.96 period would be taken after the royalty for the period 1993—96 is notified.

Potential of CNG Distribution in Andhra Pradesh

397. SHRI C. RAMACHAND RAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for Bharat Petroleum to study the potential of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) distribution in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Bharat Petroleum has CNG outlets in some cities;

(c) the details of existing CNG network of Bharat Petroleum in the country;

(d) whether it is a fact that motorists are turned away by Bharat Petroleum CNG outlets for want of supply; and

(e) what are the reasons for lax management by Bharat Petroleum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. BPCL currently has 5 retail outlets where CNG is being dispensed. The details are as under:

(i) M/s. Gymkhana Service Station New Delhi.

(ii) M/s. Syall Service Station, New Delhi.

(iii) M/s. R.S. Bhola Ram Service Station, New Delhi.

(iv) M/s. Kausar Auto Service, Mahalaxmi Mumbai.

(v) M/s. Universal Auto, Mazagon, Mumbai.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The question does not arise.

Distribution network of CNG

398. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation has any Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) distribution network in the country;

(b) the extent of CNG outlets operated by IOC;

(c) whether Indian Oil Corporation has neglected this sector;

(d) what are the plans for utilizing CNG as a source of pollution free fuel for cars; and

(e) the details thereof?